



HOWARD COUNTY OFFICE OF TRANSPORTATION  
3430 Court House Drive ■ Ellicott City, Maryland 21043 ■ 410-313-4312

Jack Guarneri, Chair  
Chris Tsien, Vice Chair

[Transportation@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:Transportation@howardcountymd.gov)  
FAX 410-313-1655  
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**BICYCLE ADVISORY GROUP (BAG)**

November 17, 2020 3 p.m.

Held via WebEx event

3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043

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**MINUTES**

**Members Present:**

Jack Guarneri, Chair  
Jessica Bellah  
Paul Walsky  
Jenn Biddle  
Christiana Rigby

**Office of Transportation Staff:**

Bruce Gartner, Administrator  
Chris Eatough  
David Cookson  
Molly Nur  
Jason Quan  
Kimberly Woods  
Allison Calkins

**Non-Members Present:**

Jason Thompson  
Kris Singleton  
Marlene Hendler  
David Ramsay  
John Eckard  
Aaron Dombrowsky  
Kris Jagarapu

**1. Approval of September 15, 2020 minutes**

Jack Guarneri moved to approve the minutes. Jenn Biddle seconded the motion.

**2. Key Topics**

a. FY2022 Capital Budget Development

Chris Eatough briefly went over of the FY2022. K5066 is the main budget that deals with bike projects (Bicycle Master Plan projects). FY2022 is expected to be a tough year for the budget in Howard County but the goal and the plan is to try to get the same amount of funding that was established for FY22 in the outyear. OOT is requesting \$1.5 million of



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FY22 County Funding that will be split between K5066 (\$825k) and N3963 paving of Patuxent Branch Trail (\$675k). The cost estimates for the design and construction for the paving of Patuxent Branch Trail are coming in higher than expected. The \$675k of County funds is to cover the increase that is needed for the paving of Patuxent Branch Trail.

Chris E provided the group with a full list of active bike projects:

Bike Infrastructure Projects, FY 21 and FY22 Proposed	Budget Area
Cedar Lane Pathway	K5066
North Laurel Connections signage and pathway project	K5066
Dobbin Road Pathway	K5066
Robert Fulton Drive Shared-Use Path	K5066
BLP/MD 32 Park-and-ride access improvements	K5066
Road Diet Projects (Oakland Mills Rd, Tamar Drive, Columbia Road)	K5066
Route 1 Safety Projects	K5066
Countywide Bicycle Wayfinding	K5066
North Chatham Road Contraflow Bike Lane	K5066
Misc. signage, stencilling, storm drain grates, etc	K5066
South Entrance Trail	T7107
Clarkesville Pike Streetscape	T7108
Surface Upgrade for the Patuxent Branch Trail	N3963
Sanner Road Bike Lanes	J4230

*\*Projects in green need construction funding from grants*

- South Entrance Trail, Clarkesville Pike Streetscape and Sanner Road Bike Lanes projects are still working through design.
- All of the projects listed in Budget Area K5066 will be able to proceed either to completion or all the way through design, contingent on the \$1.5 million requested.

The budget hearing is expected to be held sometime between December 7<sup>th</sup> - December 14<sup>th</sup>. The announcement hasn't come out yet, so Bruce suggested that the members keep an eye on the County website for updates.



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### **3. Business from last meeting**

#### a. Howard County Police Department

At a previous BAG meeting there was a discussion concerning the process of video submissions of aggressive driving to the HoCo Police Department. Chris Eatough has since then confirmed with Lieutenant Dombrowsky that video can be submitted. The key element is whether the aggressive driver is identifiable in the video in order to issue a citation. Lieutenant Dombrowsky further explained that the citations are ultimately going to be at the officer's discretion. Citations are dependent upon what the officer sees in the video and what they deem to be actual violations. Unfortunately, a lot of times the driver can't be identified (in the video evidence) so the Police Department sends an aggressive driver letter to the owner of the vehicle instead. The Police Department doesn't keep track of letters they send out or how often the same car receives one because they don't know who the driver of the vehicle was.

#### b. Micro surfacing

There has been an increase in chip and seal, but micro surfacing seems to be more of a bike friendly surface. BAG members would like to request that DPW uses micro surfacing in the future instead of chip and seal. Chip and seal patched roads make for a very uncomfortable surface for bike riders. Micro surfacing allows for road restriping.

Kris Jagarapu briefly discussed the DPW budget for resurfacing work. For the last couple of years DPW has received a lower than \$5 million to complete resurfacing projects. Part of the resurfacing funds are used to spend on other preventative measures, such as micro surfacing. DPW currently use contract sources to complete micro surfacing work while chip and seal is something that is directly handled by DPW staff. When funding is reduced for resurfacing projects contractual work is the first to be impacted. Even when DPW does a chip and seal patch they still stripe the location. If there are locations that were overlooked Kris J recommended that the group contact DPW so that they can go back to stripe those locations. Every year DPW tries to prioritize and come up with a list of locations and evaluate those roadways to see if they can be included in the micro surfacing process. Every chip and seal road may not get micro surfaced because sometimes a full asphalt resurfacing is done instead. This is because with the cost of micro surfacing the county gets about 6 to 7



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years but with the full asphalt resurfacing the county gets 15 to 20 years of life. So even though the costs for asphalt resurfacing may cost a little more it lasts longer too.

Funding for resurfacing projects is expected to be lean again so expect to see more chip and seal work especially in the western part of the County. DPW doesn't do a lot of chip seal work in the central and eastern part of the County. The County have not paved any roads in the current fiscal year. DPW has received \$1.5 million dollars for resurfacing projects, which only equates to a little over a month to six weeks of work. DPW plans on spending that money in the upcoming spring season. Jack Guarneri suggested to Kris J that DPW prioritizes the hillier roads in the County. Those roads are more concerning to have rough patches due to chip and seal patching on. Chip and seal patches are a safety hazard for bicyclists.

### c. Recommendations for Bike Lane Markings through intersections

At the last meeting there was a recommendation from the group regarding bike lane markings through intersections. Chris E suggested that the recommendation is a good fit for the design manual work for Complete Streets. Bike lanes are currently not in the design manual at all but will be getting added to the Complete Streets update in the Design Manual (due October 2021).

### d. Slippery Bridges

Chris E announced that Rec and Parks have been looking at all their bridges to find a solution regarding slippery bridges. The solution they have come up with is to improve the signage, to put up warning signs that the bridge may be slippery. Chris E mentioned that the Columbia Association has a similar situation in efforts to keep their bridges clean. While the ideal resolution would be to have some kind of non-slip surface added to all bridges and boardwalks around the county it would be quite expensive.

Jessica Bellah informed the group that the Columbia Association is currently going through a process where they are slowly replacing their wood bridges with fiberglass bridges which are less slippery. The CA has more than 270 bridges but can only budget 14-15 bridges a year.

### e. Bike Rest Stops



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Chris E mentioned that at the last meeting there was a discussion regarding Rec and Parks incorporating more bike rest stops, similar to the one at the top of Harriet Tubman lane. While Paul Walsky passed on the information to his colleagues he has yet to receive any feedback regarding the request. Paul Walsky suggested setting up a meeting with Howard County bike advocates and the Recs & Park staff. Chris E suggested the existing bike rest stop at the Ecology Center as the meeting place.

#### **4. Brief Updates**

##### a. Legislations prohibiting parking in bike lane (CB49-2020)-passed

Chris E announced that the new legalization prohibiting parking in bike lanes passed as council bill 49-2020. It goes into effect on December 7<sup>th</sup>. If you see anyone parking in a bike lane and want to report it, you can call the police non-emergency number.

##### b. Complete Streets

Completion of Community Engagement Plan Transportation Improvement Plan (TIPS). Chris E informed the group that the Complete Street Team has had an active fall. Which included some October deadlines for the community engagement plan, a transportation improvement plan, and priority approval system. The priority approval system is kind of the priority rating system for all transportation projects as they go in the capital budget. There is also a new sidewalk policy for sidewalks in the County right away along public roads. The new policy is more focused on informing local resident about the sidewalk, as opposed to needing their approval on a two thirds vote. CSIT provided the County Council with a 12-month update on November 9<sup>th</sup>. CSIT is moving on to the next phase which is completing the design manual which is due by October 2021. Updates were made to the transportation website which now includes links to Complete Streets projects.

##### c. Police Department

Chris E announced that the pathway patrol unit of the Police Department informed him that there has been some displaced signage. Apparently, some of the locator signage on the pathways are getting displaced or moved around. The signs are important because they can be useful in case of emergency if somebody's calling you, or if there's an incident that



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happened and they are trying to locate you. The police are aware of this issue and is currently investigating it.

### d. CA Pathways Mobile App

Chris E announced that the Columbia Association Pathways Mobile App has been discontinued. Unfortunately, the app was no longer compatible with the current smart phones operating systems. Jessica Bellah suggested that Google Maps be used for mapping the existing pathways and trails throughout Columbia.

### e. 108 and Shepard Lane Design

Jack Guarneri informed the group that he was contacted by the River Hill Village Board traffic and safety people. They did a walkthrough of an area around River Hill Square which raised a lot of concerns about some of the traffic patterns there. One concern being that the westbound lane from Shepard Lane towards the Freestate Station has been reduced in size and hasn't been completely striped yet, there's also no shoulder at all. Another being that the going the other direction one of the exits from River Hill Square there's a concrete island barrier right in the middle of the shoulder area that cyclists have to go through (which isn't a wide area). While there's a long-term plan to do a street skate project there, that project may take years to develop. Jack would like to know what is going to be done in the meanwhile to make the area safer for cyclist. Chris E informed Jack that in addition to the street skate project there will also be a pathway going in as part of the development as well. The new development frontage has a pathway that should provide bike accommodations through that splitter island at the entrance.

The River Hill Board has a WebEx meeting scheduled with the County Thursday at 7p.m.

## 5. Upcoming Events

- a. Virtual Transportation Forum – November 18 at 6pm
- b. E-Scooter Sharing Permit Award – Mid-Dec (w/mid-March operational start)
- c. Reinstating RTA fares – January 2, 2021



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- d. Phase 3 of General Paratransit (GPT) fare increase – effective January 1, 2021
- e. Annual BikeHoward Open House (virtual)- Jan/Feb 2021

**6. Open Discussion**

Jessica Bellah announced that CA has scrapped their annual Bike and Pedestrian Pathway Count Program. CA is coming up with a new count program that will be more staff lead and run year-round. If anyone has a particular location that they would like to be tracked email Jessica.

**7. Next Meeting**

The next BAG meeting will be held on January 12,2021.

**8. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:14 p.m.

*Bruce Gartner* \_\_\_\_\_

Bruce Gartner  
Executive Secretary

Date

*Kimberly Woods* \_\_\_\_\_

Recording Secretary

Date